2021

AP® CollegeBoard

AP® Music Theory

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Free Response Question 4

- ☑ Scoring Guideline
- ☑ Student Samples
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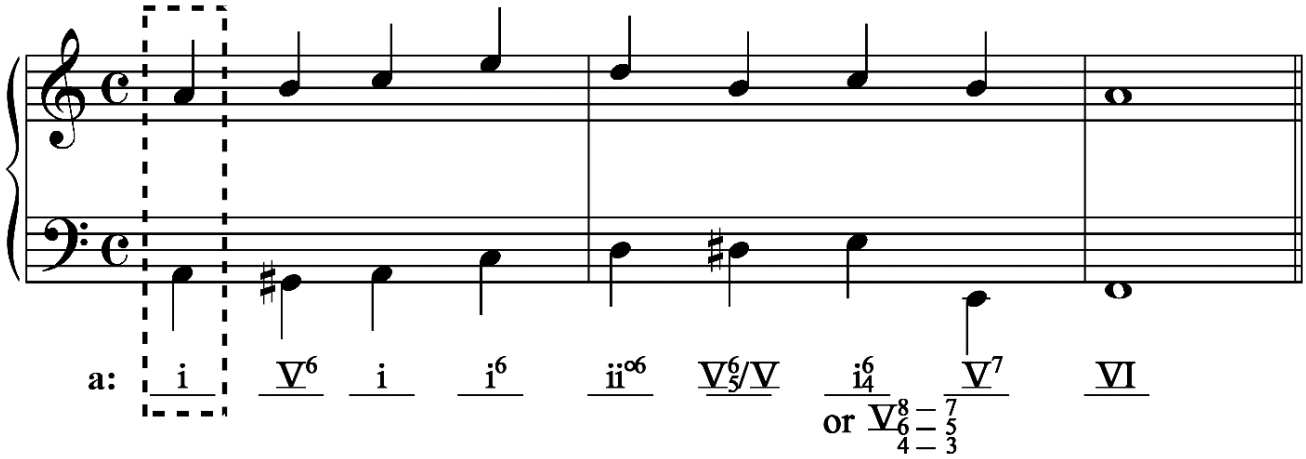
Question 4: Harmonic Dictation — 24 points



I. Pitches

A. Award 1 point for each correctly notated pitch. Do not consider duration. (An accidental placed *after* the notehead is not considered correct notation.)

B. Award full credit for octave transpositions of the correct bass pitch. (Octave transpositions of soprano pitches are *not* allowed.)

C. No enharmonic equivalents are allowed.

1 point per pitch (max 16)

II. Chord Symbols

A. Award 1 point for each chord symbol correct in both Roman and Arabic numerals.

B. Award ½ point for each correct Roman numeral that has incorrect or missing Arabic numerals.

C. Accept the correct Roman numeral regardless of its case.

D. Award no credit if an accidental is placed before a Roman numeral.

E. Secondary functions must be indicated with a symbol that means "of" or "applied." Accept any symbol that means "of" or "applied" for chord six, e.g.,: V^6_5/V, $[V^6_5]$, $V^6_5 \rightarrow V$, V^6_5 of V, etc.

F. When a chord with the same Roman numeral occurs twice in succession (e.g., $I–I^6$ or $V–V\,^4_2$), if the Roman numeral below the first occurrence of the chord is correct, then the Roman numeral below the second occurrence of the chord is also considered correct if figures are written with no Roman numeral or if a dash is written. In order to receive full credit, the correct Arabic numeral(s) must be written below the second occurrence of the chord.

1 point per complete chord symbol (max 8)

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G. The cadential six-four may be correctly labeled as shown above. Also, give full credit for the labels "Cad $\frac{6}{4}$" or "C $\frac{6}{4}$" for the antepenultimate chord. If the Roman numeral of the antepenultimate chord is V, the space below the penultimate chord should contain a figure, a dash, or a V in order for the antepenultimate chord to receive any credit. If the space below the penultimate chord is blank, no credit is awarded for the penultimate or the antepenultimate chord symbol.

Ex. →	$V^{(8)}_{\substack{6\\4}}$	$^{7}_{(5)}$ $_{(3)}$	V^{6}_{4}	$^{5}_{3}$	V^{6}_{4}		V	V	V^{6}_{4}	I	I^{6}_{4}	IV	$V^{(6)}_{(4)}$	IV	V	—	V	V^{7}	V^{6}_{4}	V^{6}_{4}
Pts. →	1	1	1	½	0	0	½	½	0	0	1	0	0	0	½	½	½	1	1	½

III. Rounding Fractional Scores

Half-point totals round up with one exception: A total score of 23½ rounds down to 23.

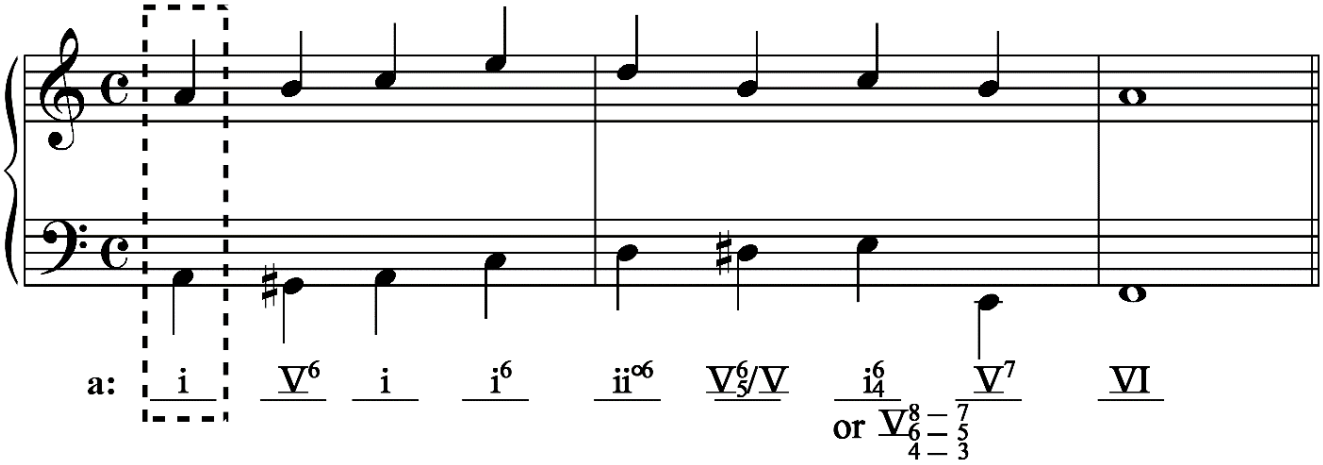
IV. Scores with Additional Meaning

0 This score is used for a response that represents an unsuccessful attempt to answer the question or a response that is off-topic or irrelevant.

NR Reserved for blank responses

Total for question 4 **24 points**

Record points for soprano pitches in row 1, for bass pitches in row 2, and for chord symbols in row 3.



Soprano pitches:									
Bass pitches:									
Chord symbols:									

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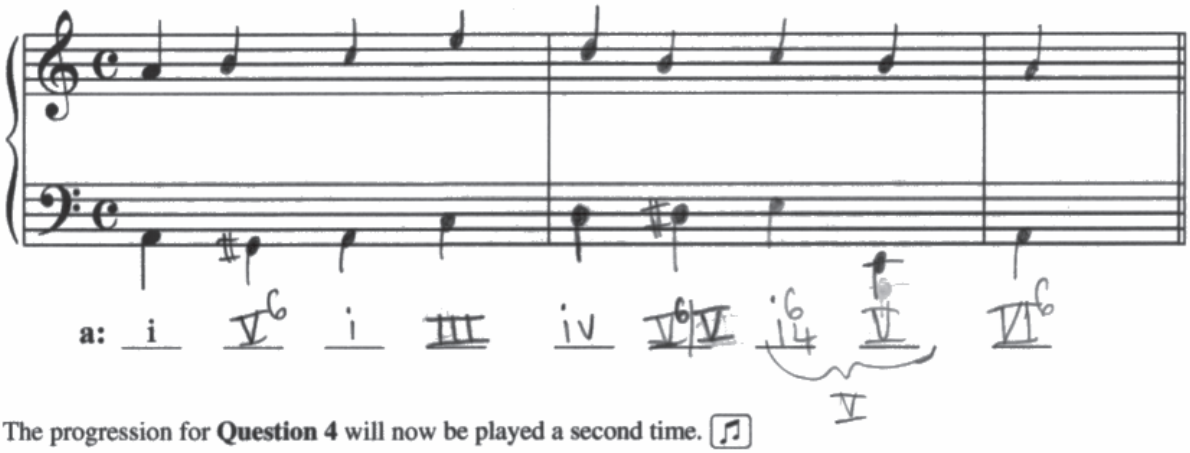
Write your response to QUESTION 4 on this page.

Question 4. Before listening to the first playing, please look at the staff below. Notice that there are nine chords in the progression; the soprano and bass notes and the Roman numeral of the first chord are given.

Remember to notate only the soprano and bass voices and to write, in every blank, the numerals indicating the chords and their inversions.

Now listen to the progression for the first time and begin working.



The progression for **Question 4** will now be played a second time.

The progression for **Question 4** will now be played a third time.

The progression for **Question 4** will now be played a final time.

The remaining free-response questions for the Music Theory test are without audio prompts. You may answer them in the order you choose. You have a total of 45 minutes to complete free-response questions 5–7. A suggested time for each question is printed in your test booklet. Read the three questions carefully and use your time effectively. Now turn the page and begin working.

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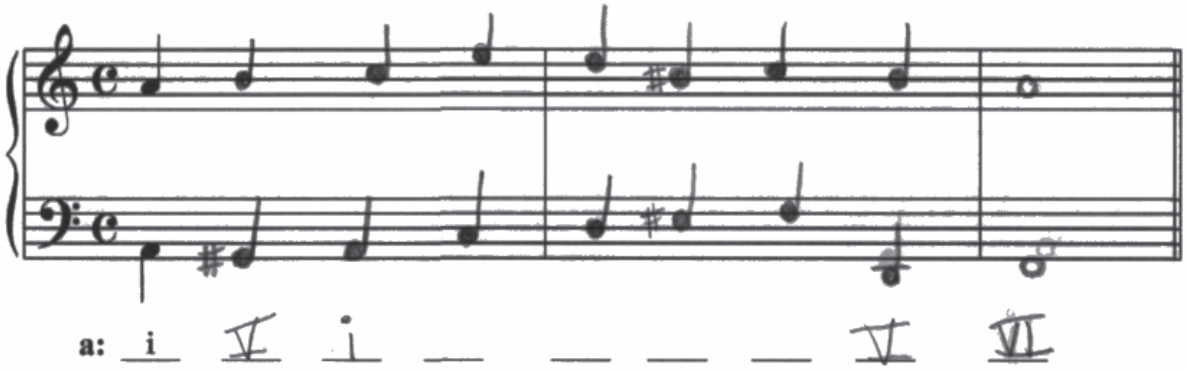

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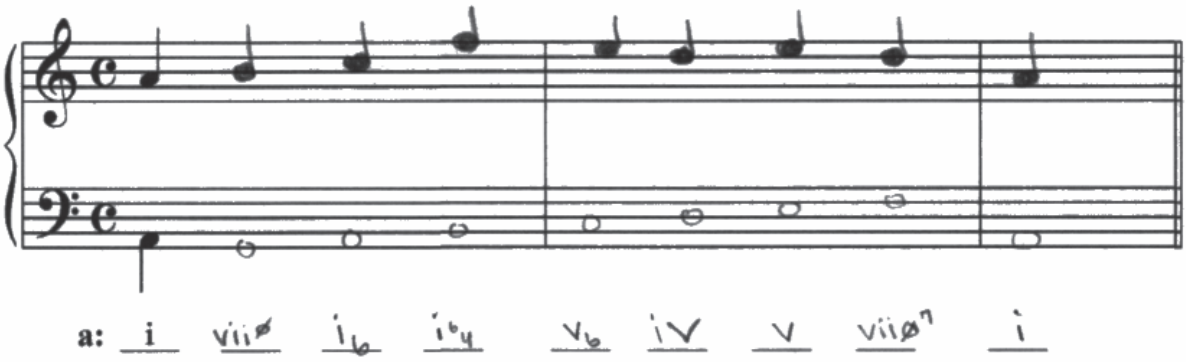

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Question 4

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

This question assessed students' ability to:

- hear a four-part progression in a harmonic minor key and notate the outer voices;
- provide the correct Roman numeral analysis of the chords;
- demonstrate a knowledge of common chord progressions, including a cadential six-four and a secondary dominant;
- hear and notate triads in root position and in inversion and seventh chords in root position and first inversion; and
- hear, notate, and analyze a deceptive cadence.

Sample: 4A
Score: 20

This represents a very good response. The student correctly notates all eight soprano pitches, and the response was awarded 8 points. Do not consider duration for the final pitch. All the bass pitches except for the final pitch are notated correctly and were awarded 7 points. The student correctly notates the Roman and Arabic numerals for chords two, three, and seven which earned a total of 3 points. Chords six, eight, and nine each earned ½ point for using the correct Roman numerals but omitting or using incorrect Arabic numerals. (Soprano: 8; Bass: 7; Roman numerals: 4½; Total = 19½, rounded up to 20)

Sample: 4B
Score: 14

This represents a fair response. The student correctly notates six soprano pitches, and 6 points were awarded. The B-sharp at chord six carries over to chord eight and remains incorrect. The student correctly notates five bass pitches which were awarded 5 points. The Roman numerals at chords three and nine are correct and were awarded 2 points. The Roman numerals at chords two and eight are missing Arabic numerals and were awarded 1 point (½ point each). (Soprano: 6; Bass: 5; Roman numerals: 3; Total = 14)

Sample: 4C
Score: 6

This represents a weak response. The student correctly notates three soprano pitches and was awarded 3 points. Do not consider duration for the final soprano pitch. The student correctly notates two bass pitches and was awarded 2 points. Do not consider duration for the bass pitches. The student notates the correct Roman numerals for chords three and four but uses incorrect Arabic numerals. The Roman numerals received a total of 1 point. (Soprano: 3; Bass: 2; Roman numerals: 1; Total = 6)

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